

BOOK REVIEWS

for long has covered venereal disease in general and syphilis in particular. How the man in the street must open his eyes when he is told that one in ten of his fellow men has or has had syphilis—and yet this is considered a conservative estimate for America.

Briefly Dr. Becker sketches the origin, manifestations, course, diagnosis and treatment of a disease about which the average man knows little or nothing, and puts it all so clearly that a child could understand.

The remedy lies in popular education, facilities for diagnosis and treatment, assistance to general practitioners and a follow-up of cases and contacts. All this should be combined in a nation-wide campaign pursued with vigour and amply supplied with the necessary funds.

If only the people can be made to realise what the disease is and what it may lead to the public conscience will be awakened. This book is written primarily for laymen, but the social worker, the nurse and even the doctor will find in it much that is both interesting and informative.

T. E. O.

SEX IN RELATION TO SOCIETY. Havelock Ellis. Heinemann, 1937.

HISTORY OF MODERN MORALS. Max Hodann. Heinemann, 1937.

As both these books are dealing with similar topics they can conveniently be reviewed together. "Sex in Relation to Society" is the first English edition of Vol. VI. of "Studies in the Psychology of Sex," abridged and revised. As Havelock Ellis himself says in the Preface, it is nearly thirty years since it was first published. During this time the author's name and reputation have justly become well known and respected and the attitude of society to sexual problems has undoubtedly been modified, so the present book should and probably will be studied by that wider public for whom it is intended.

Although one may not agree *in toto* with the arguments, conclusions, and practical advice here given, one must admit the fundamental importance of the subject and the breadth of vision and moral integrity of the author.

The two chapters of particular interest to the venereologist are naturally those on "Prostitution" and "On the Conquest of Venereal Diseases," but these problems are so intimately bound up with questions of sexual education, chastity, abstinence and marriage, etc., that they cannot satisfactorily be studied by themselves.

Dr. Max Hodann's book, "History of Modern Morals," is in many respects complementary to that of Havelock Ellis, as he describes in detail the developments relating to sexual matters which have taken place during the last few years in Europe and America. This historical account of the present situation and the events leading up to it makes very interesting reading and reveals how muddled and contradictory yet remain both our theory and our practice. It must be admitted, however, that Dr. Hodann's outlook seems to be narrower than that of Havelock Ellis, and to some extent prejudiced by matters which are strictly irrelevant to the scope of the work. Further, he seems to be imbued with the psycho-analytic doctrine of the pre-eminence of sex and all that pertains thereto, but, while admitting the extreme

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importance of sex as a biological process, one must surely maintain that procreation and the perpetuation of species derive their value from the contribution they make to evolution. The aim and purpose of life is not the harmonious satisfaction of a sexual appetite as the Freudians would have us believe, but the gradual development of mind and spirit with the attainment of progressively higher intellectual, æsthetic and moral standards.

Unless the many problems raised by these two books are seen in their proper perspective, erroneous solutions are likely to be advocated, which if adopted will but lead to a continuation of conditions unsatisfactory both to individuals and to the social community.

E. L. H.

BY-EFFECTS IN SALVARSAN THERAPY AND THEIR PREVENTION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE LIVER FUNCTION. By V. Genner, M.D. Copenhagen: Levin & Munksgaard, 1936. Pp. 360 with 16 Tables. Price 22 Kroner (approx. £1 15s.).

THE author of this work is an Associate in Dermatology at the Finsen Light Institute and was formerly Senior Assistant Physician to the Department of Dermato-Venereology at the University Clinic in Copenhagen.

Dr. Genner has written a most interesting book and it is one which is worthy of a prominent place upon the bookshelves of every syphilologist. He discusses post-arsphenamine erythema, jaundice, albuminuria, arthritis and various subjective by-effects.

Erythema was found to be equally frequent in both sexes among adults, but it was rarely encountered in children. The evidence shows that its frequency has increased with the increasing intensity of arsphenamine therapy. The predominant causative factor appears to be the individual tolerance of the patient towards the drug. There is practically no reference to the post-arsphenamine blood-dyscrasias—thrombocytopenia and agranulocytosis—which give rise to purpura. This may be because the sulpharsphenamines are, apparently, seldom used.

The author discusses the various hypotheses which have been put forward as to the causation of jaundice during the treatment of syphilis. He does not consider that the syphilitic factor is an important one. His view is that jaundice results when an icterogenic virus (that of epidemic jaundice) attacks a liver which has been traumatised by arsphenamine and which is, therefore, more susceptible to infection. He points out the parallelism between the incidence of epidemic and post-arsphenamine jaundice. It is interesting to note Dr. Genner's finding that if, on the occurrence of jaundice, bismuth was used alone until the jaundice disappeared, arsphenamine could be subsequently renewed with but few recurrences of the condition. The experience of the reviewer is in agreement upon this point.

The clinical material upon which this book is based has been most carefully considered and analysed; and, while everyone will not agree with all the conclusions arrived at, yet the author's views must receive careful study by those who deal with syphilis.

E. T. B.